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LOS ANGELES TIMES
19 February 1984

Everybody in the Act

Making Olympics Safe Promises to Cost Plenty

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The Games of the XXIII Olympiad in Los Angeles this summer will be protected by what Los Angeles police officials call the "largest police presence" in the history of the city—thousands of local officers and additional thousands of private security guards.

But immediately behind the local police lines will be an equally impressive if somewhat less visible federal security force numbering in the thousands and costing at least \$55 million. For instance:

—Agents of the FBI, CIA and National Security Agency, among others, already are at work collecting anti-terrorist intelligence all over the world and funneling it to Los Angeles. During the Games, more than 700 FBI agents will be stationed in the Los Angeles area.

—More than 600 Secret Service agents and support personnel will assist in guarding the President and as many as 30 heads of state expected to attend the Olympics.

—Military surveillance helicopters, satellite communications equipment manned by military technicians and state-of-the-art military "intrusion detection" (burglar alarm) systems will be arrayed to protect Olympic venues, villages and visitors.

—The federal security blanket even includes X-ray screening of every piece of Olympic Village mail by a special team of U.S. Postal Service inspectors.

The federal Office of Manpower and the Budget estimates that 16 federal agencies will spend \$55 million on preparation and security for the Games. Another \$17 million

is being held in reserve and would be spent if the military were called upon to cope with a major outbreak of violence, according to OMB Deputy Director Joe Wright. "And it's also safe to say that nobody would be watching the budget too closely if major trouble did arise," Wright said.

Wright and other federal officials are walking a fine line in preparing for the Olympics. Security is a critical issue in a world infected by terrorism; but costs are also a critical issue, particularly since the 1984 Games have been billed as the first private-enterprise Olympics in history.

In fact, the federal effort undercuts the widely held notion that the Games are being staged at no taxpayer cost, since none of the \$55 million will be reimbursed by the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee.

"Too Cute by Half"

Some federal officials involved in the Games find the entire idea of a privately financed Olympics misleading. "I know the position of the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee . . ." said one senior federal official, "and frankly, I think they are being too cute by half."

That is not to say that the federal effort is being made grudgingly, said the official, who asked not to be directly identified. "We are committed to having a safe and peaceful Olympics. The Games are in the national interest; a black eye for the Los Angeles Olympics would be a black eye for the entire nation."

But, he said, "Security preparations are costing a great deal, and much of that cost is going to be borne by the American taxpayer."

The designated lead federal agency in the security field, by nature of its domestic anti-terrorism responsibility, is the FBI, which is supplying 300 extra agents to augment the 400 normally stationed in the Los Angeles area.

The agents are charged with gathering intelligence about terrorist groups operating in the United States, with prevention of actual attacks and with investigation of any attacks that do take place. In addition, the FBI has recently fielded a 50-member hostage rescue team trained in skills ranging from negotiating with terrorists to explosive entry of buildings where hostages are being held.

Civilian Alternative

FBI Director William Webster and other FBI officials say the new team was designed to offer a civilian alternative to military counter-terrorism units. The military is "not trained with the same emphasis upon saving lives that we associate with a civilian effort," Webster told reporters recently.

The FBI also will serve as the conduit for intelligence gathered by U.S. agents overseas and which may have a bearing on the Games. Federal sources say that is one of the chief priorities of the CIA, the National Security Agency and other U.S. intelligence gatherers at the moment.

The sources say that no specific threat to the Games has yet been detected, but if it were, the information would pass via normal liaison to a number of local police officials who have undergone security background investigations and now hold clearances that allow them to be briefed on classified material.

In addition, an unspecified number of FBI agents will be involved in surveillance of suspected foreign intelligence officers who the FBI expects will use the cover of the Olympics to spy on Southern California's defense contractors or other espionage targets.

The FBI has refused to put a price tag on its contribution to Olympic Games security, citing the secrecy of both its foreign counterintelli-

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